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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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* Documents E/CN.4/1997/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1997/L.11 and addenda.

GE.97-12219 (E)

XIX. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

1. The Commission considered agenda item 19 concurrently with items 11 and 17 (see chaps. XI and XVII) at its 18th to 23rd meetings, from 21 to 25 March 1997 and at its 56th meeting, on 11 April 1997. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 19, see annex .. to the present report. For a list of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, see annex .. to the present report.

3. At the 18th meeting, on 21 March 1997, the Special Rapporteur on the question of religious intolerance, Mr. Abdelfattah Amor, introduced his report (E/CN.4/1997/91 and Add.1). At the 23rd meeting, on 25 March 1997, the Special Rapporteur made his concluding remarks.

4. In the general debate on agenda item 19, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Belarus (22nd), China (22nd), Egypt (22nd), India (22nd), Ireland (21st), Malaysia (22nd), Pakistan (22nd), United States of America (21st).

5. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Cyprus (21st), Greece (22nd), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (22nd), Israel (23rd), Sudan (22nd). A statement was also made by the observer for the Holy See (21st).

6. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: Asian Cultural Forum on Development (21st), International Association for Religious Freedom (19th), International Association of Educators for World Peace (23rd), International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (20th), International Educational Development, Inc. (23rd), International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic and Other Minorities (19th), International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (19th), International Indian Treaty Council (23rd), International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (23rd), Pax Christi International (21st), United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation (23rd), World Federation of United Nations Associations (20th), World Muslim Congress (21st), World Peace Council (23rd).

7. Statements in exercise of the right of reply or its equivalent were made by the representative of Mexico (23rd) and by the observers for Cyprus (21st) and Turkey (21st).

8. At its 56th meeting, on 11 April 1997, the Commission took up consideration of the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 19.

9. The representative of Ireland introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.38, sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Venezuela. Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, India, Israel, New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, San Marino, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay subsequently joined the sponsors.

10. The draft was orally revised by the representative of Ireland as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 2 which read: "Expresses grave concern at and condemns all instances and forms of hatred or intolerance on the grounds of religion or belief;", was replaced by a new text;

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 3 (c), the phrase "including practices which violate the human rights of women and discriminate against women;" was added;

(c) In operative paragraph 3 (f), before "In accordance", the words "to exert utmost efforts" were inserted and after "human rights standards", the words "to exert their utmost efforts" were deleted;

(d) Operative paragraph 3 (g) which read: "To oppose acts of religious intolerance which violate the human rights of women and discriminate against women;" was deleted;

(e) In operative paragraph 6, the word "including" was replaced by the words "inter alia through";

(f) Operative paragraph 8 which read: "Invites the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, to continue to bear in mind the need to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him, to seek the views and comments of the Government concerned on any information which he intends to include in his report, and to continue to carry out his work with discretion and independence;", was replaced by a new text;

(g) In operative paragraph 9, "elements" was replaced by the word "actors";

(h) In operative paragraph 11, after "to ensure", the phrase "that appropriate measures are taken to this end, including the dissemination, as a matter of high priority" was replaced by "as a matter of priority, the widest possible dissemination".

11. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1997/18.